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SOURCE

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A. Nature

The organization which datelines its items RENGO NEWS AGENCY is a composite of Communist-line journals in Japan organized within the framework of the ORGAN PAPERS ASSOCIATED NEWS SERVICE. This service provides two daily Japanese-language releases, a "domestic" and an "overseas" edition, and an additional "Reports from Overseas" which appears three times a week (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday). An English-language edition of domestic news which used to be published weekly has been discontinued. The Agency also has a news photo service. Agency branches are said to be located throughout Japan, with the main office in Tokyo now located at 22-4 Chome; Shiba-Tamura-Cho, Minato-ku. The publisher is listed as Reizo Yoshimura, about whom very little is known. The Agency is understood to be sponsored by the Communist Party, and individual organs have at various times been identified as RENGO, RENGO PRESS, ASSOCIATED NEWS SERVICE, ALLIED PRESS AGENCY, UNITED CORRESPONDENCE, FEDERATED NEWS AGENCY, ORGAN PAPERS FEDERATED NEWS AGENCY.

B. Background

With the stated objective of general dissemination of "democratic" news, the JAPAN ORGAN PAPERS ASSOCIATION (Nippon Kikanshi Kyokai) and 24 leftist unions formed on 1 September 1948 the ORGAN PAPERS ASSOCIATED NEWS SERVICE. The clients of the news service in 1949 consisted almost entirely of labor unions and a few political party units, government offices, individual newspapers and private individuals. Through agreements with the official Soviet news service TASS, the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY and TELEPRESS, the Agency became the foremost disseminator of foreign Communist propaganda in Japan. With the suppression of AKAHATA and other Communist-line journals, RENGO became the primary source for all party-line material in Japan, and its dispatches have since been used extensively by TASS, NCNA and TELEPRESS as anchors for Communist-style denunciation of American policies in Japan and for reporting the complaints and antioccupation efforts of the population.

C. Material

Since RENGO is an overt agency, the news service presents the propaganda line without the vitriolic tones and pointed remarks found in the treatment of similar topics in regular Communist press materials or in underground publications. The Agency does not initiate direct criticism of MacArthur or SCAP officials, but does on frequent occasions present highly critical and often scurrilous comments by the oblique method of ascribing the comment to some particular person or organization.

The material gathered and disseminated by RENGO may be classified under four broad headings: (1) denunciation of rearmament and remilitarization; (2) demands for and support of an over-all peace treaty; (3) denunciation of abuses of the working population and recitals of general public dissatisfaction with the occupation; (4) complaints against the persecution of "progressives."

CLASSIFICATION

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ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI										

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Typical items under the various categories may be summed up as follows:

1. Rearmament and remilitarization is a breach of the Potsdam, Yalta and Cairo decisions; Japanese workers who have suffered so much from the military adventures of the previous regimes want no recurrence of the disasters of militarism; denunciation of the purposes of the National Police Reserve and expressions of resistance from the members themselves; expressions of dismay at the conversion of industry from peaceful to war production and the revival of dormant munitions plants; reports of workers' sabotage of war production and refusal to continue such efforts; expressions of the fears of workers of air attacks in areas where munitions are being manufactured; reports of the refusal of Japanese dockworkers to load vessels for Korea and of doctors and nurses to go to the fighting fronts; and condemnation of the excessive expenditures for war.

2. Support of the terms of the Potsdam, Yalta and Cairo decisions calling for a joint peace treaty; expressions of the need for unanimity among the world powers in order to return Japan to the family of nations; reports of public support for an over-all peace treaty, including peace-signature campaigns, etc.; publication of the sentiments of religious and other groups in favor of an over-all peace; expressions of support from teachers and other intellectuals; repeat of Communist Chinese editorials calling for an over-all peace and expressing assurances of Peking's friendship for Japan in the future.

3. Complaints about rising prices, long working hours, bad working conditions, insufficient pay; charges that the demands of the Korean war have set labor back; contentions that the diversion of production to war needs has reduced the supply of coal and other essential products for consumers; abuse of women and the nonexistence of amenities; denunciation of forced speed-ups in the procurement of materials for military needs; reports of movements against military service and against being used as cannon fodder; descriptions of unemployment conditions and the sorry plight of the farmers.

4. Complaints against the abuse of progressives, especially the Communists; expressions of support for Socialist elements also critical of the occupation regime; support of anti-Yoshida elements in the Diet; support of the "victims" of the Mitaka and Matsukawa incidents.

No effort is made to glorify the Soviet Union or other Communist regimes, and the Agency seldom quotes Communist agencies except for occasionally reprinting an editorial article transmitted by NCNA.

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